**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF A TASK TEAM ON STATISTICAL CAPACITY
DEVELOPMENT FOR SDGS (TTCAP)**

Prepared by the CES Steering Group on Statistics for SDGs

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I.   BACKGROUND

1. In September 2015, the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by the UN General Assembly. A core element of this Agenda is the agreement by all UN member countries to achieve 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets. In March 2017 UNSC endorsed the 230+ indicators proposed by its Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators. The global indicator framework was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 6 July 2017 in its resolution 71/313 "Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

2. Global indicators will provide the framework of monitoring progress towards the SDGs. As recognized in the 2030 Agenda, the achievement of the global goals and provision of data to measure their progress will be country-led. National statistical offices will be responsible, in conjunction with policy leadership and stakeholder engagement, to provide statistics that conform with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. At the same time, it is recognized that providing these statistics will require collaboration across countries, international organizations, and other partnerships.

3. In February 2016, the CES Bureau set up a Steering Group on statistics for SDGs (ECE/CES/BUR/2016/FEB/5), with the following objectives: (a) to prepare a road map for developing official statistics for SDGs under CES. The road map will provide a strategy on how to implement a monitoring system for SDGs under CES, and guide the CES members in implementing the Declaration adopted by the Conference in 2015; and (b) to follow up on the implementation of the road map. Its mandate indicates that the Steering Group "may identify concrete tasks or activities to support its work that could be undertaken by groups of experts (Task Forces). In such cases, after having verified the interest by a sufficient number of CES member countries and the availability of resources, the Steering Group will submit proposals to the CES Bureau for review and approval."

4. As an outcome of the December 2017 Steering Group meeting, member countries agreed that there is strong need to improve coordination on SDG statistical capacity development within the UNECE CES region. To meet this challenge, establishment of the Task Team on Capacity Development was proposed. Statements of purpose were drafted in January 2018 by the co-chairs of the Steering Group; Task Team co-chairs and members were identified and charged to develop terms of reference and an initial work plan.

II.   MANDATE

5. The work of the Task Team will be conducted within the framework of Steering Group on statistics for SDGs (ECE/CES/BUR/2016/FEB/5) under CES and its Bureau. The Task Team has a fixed term mandate until UNECE CES 2019; after this time, the Steering Group will decide if more work is needed. The Task Team will lead coordination and promote SDG statistical capacity building activities within the UNECE CES region. To accomplish its objectives, the TTCAP will work

closely together with existing bodies or persons active in this field. This includes, but is not limited to, the proposed 2018 UNECE Statistical Capacity Development Strategy; the UNECE High Level Group on Modernization of Statistics (HLG-MOS); PARIS21's initiative "Capacity Development 4.0"; the UNSD High Level Group on Partnership, Collaboration, and Capacity Building (HLG-PCCB); and the UNSD Joint Subgroup of the HLG-PCCB and the UNSD Interagency Group on SDGs (IAEG-SDGs).

III.   OBJECTIVES

6.   There are two objectives of the Task Team. First, the Task Team will enable National Statistical Offices to assess their own statistical capacity development needs and priorities for the SDGs and beyond given national context. Second, the Task Team will identify resources, tools, and guidance[1] to assist NSOs in addressing their national SDG statistical capacity priorities in a manner that a) focuses on commonly held priorities within the UNECE CES region; b) reflects a demand driven, country led, and self-initiated capacity development strategy; and c) emphasizes resources, tools, and guidance that additionally benefit statistical capacity development beyond the SDGs alone.

IV.   PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

7.   Building upon existing collaborative efforts and resources within the UNECE CES region, the Task Team will carry out activities in three main steps:

(a) The Task Team will prepare initial guidance for national statistical capacity development plans for the SDGs and beyond. This may include a description of key components for such plans, notation of national priorities, and examples of best practices. The form of this guidance may be a template and/or a self-assessment survey.

(b) The Task Team will prepare a summary describing national priority areas for statistical capacity building for the SDGs and beyond within the UNECE CES region. Initially, this will draw from extant surveys conducted by relevant groups. Upon receipt of national statistical capacity development plans from countries, the Task Team will revise and update this summary. The summary will be used to guide investigation of capacity gaps and proposed solutions.

(c) The Task Team will identify extant resources, tools, and guidance to enable NSOs to address their statistical capacity building needs. This will be informed by initial regional summary of national priorities and subsequently refined. Gaps in available resources will be discussed with the Steering Group for broader communication.

V.   TIMETABLE

8.   The activities of the Task Team are planned for the period from summer 2018 to summer 2019. A general timetable appears below; an accompanying work plan provides greater detail.

Timetable:	Activities:
June - September 2018	Initial analysis of extant data describing national statistical capacity development needs and priorities for the SDGs and beyond within UNECE CES region. Identify initial (draft) scope of needs and commonly held priority areas within CES region.

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[1] Such guidance may be in the form of a best practices document, a template, a quick start guide, or county case studies, among other formats, at the discretion of the task team.

October – December 2018	Develop outline and workplan to create a template for countries to use to make their own national statistical capacity development plan (may be in form of template, self-assessment, or similar). Prepare draft national development plan template (or self-assessment).
January – March 2019	Request comment on draft development plan. Finalize. Develop outline and workplan for identifying existing tools/resources for commonly held statistical capacity priorities in region. Identify tools/resources that enable country-led, demand driven, self-initiated development.
April – June 2019	Prepare draft initial "kiosk" of resources (e.g., case studies), tools, and guidance. Request comment on content and usability. Prepare workplan for 2019-2020.

VI.   METHODS OF WORK

9. The Task Team will primarily work via email, wiki workspace and telephone conferences. Face-to-face meetings may be organized at events attended by a significant number of Task Team members, such as the plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians and other meetings.

VII.   MEMBERSHIP

10. The following countries and organizations are members of the Task Group: Italy (co-chair), Montenegro (co-chair), Canada, Denmark, France, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Netherlands, Republic of Moldova, Norway, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Poland, PARIS21 and WHO Europe. Other countries and organizations may also join the Steering Group as the work progresses.